

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

March 18, 2005

The Honorable Charles H. Taylor  
Chairman  
Interior Appropriations Subcommittee  
B-308 Rayburn HOB  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Norman Dicks  
Ranking Member  
Interior Appropriations Subcommittee  
1016 Longworth HOB  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Taylor and Ranking Member Dicks:

Thank you for your continued support of the Multinational Species Conservation Fund and the Wildlife Without Borders program. This year, to the extent possible in light of current financial constraints, we ask that you again support these small but important programs for the conservation of wild tigers, elephants, rhinos, great apes, marine turtles, and neotropical migratory birds.

The Fund has traditionally encouraged public-private partnerships through local and international matching contributions to support law enforcement, scientific monitoring, habitat preservation, disease prevention, and public education. **Total U.S. funding of \$35 million over the past fourteen years has leveraged over \$128 million in additional funding from public and private sources.**

For fiscal year (FY) 2005, the Fund was appropriated at \$5.7 million for the four mammal programs, \$4 million for migratory birds, and a small start-up of \$100,000 for the newly created Marine Turtle Conservation Fund. The Wildlife Without Borders regional programs received \$2 million for capacity building in Mexico, South America and selected countries in Asia. These funds help bridge the gap in host countries where resources are insufficient to meet the needs of both humans and wildlife.

Civil unrest, struggling economies and natural disasters continue to challenge host country efforts to conserve wildlife. Former success stories, like the translocation of rhinos from Chitwan National Park to Bardia National Park in Nepal, have turned into conservation setbacks due to poaching by Maoist insurgents in that country. Additionally, the Indian Ocean tsunami destroyed turtle nesting beaches and could have a continued impact on protected habitats for Asian elephants, rhinos, tigers and other endangered species in national parks. The Fund has helped

Fund can also help rebuild communities devastated by natural disasters and generate economic stability in third-world nations.

As you are aware, the Marine Turtle Conservation Act was enacted with an annual authorization of \$5 million. An initial appropriation of \$100,000 started the Fund but additional resources are needed to bring the program up to parity with existing Funds. We ask that the Marine Turtle Conservation Fund be given special consideration in FY 2006.

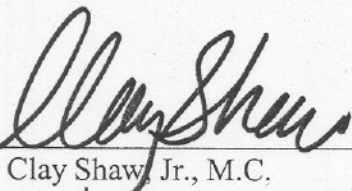
In addition, the Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Fund has helped to protect winter habitat in Latin American and the Caribbean for birds whose nesting and summer ranges are within the United States. This program has been particularly successful in generating matching contributions, which have expanded the U.S. government investment in migratory bird programs by almost five times.

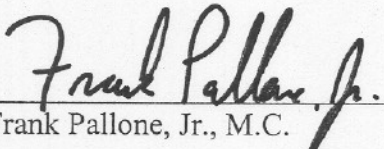
As you know, several conservation organizations have proposed an International Conservation Budget (ICB) for consideration in FY 2006. The ICB suggests an appropriation of \$2 million each for the Asian Elephant, African Elephant, Great Apes, and Marine Turtle Conservation Funds, \$2.5 million for the combined Rhinoceros and Tiger Conservation Fund, and \$5 million for the Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Fund. The ICB also suggests a modest increase from \$2 to \$2.5 million for Wildlife Without Borders, to support the growth of a regional program for Africa that is focused on control of the bushmeat trade.

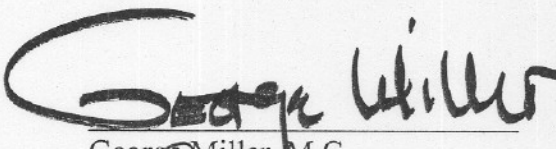
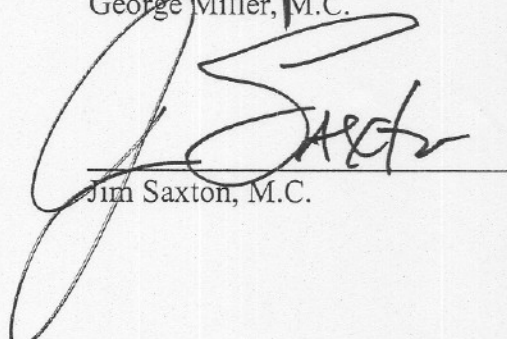
**While we recognize that this is a particularly difficult budget year, we ask that you consider the small size of the programs in relation to the large impact they have on species survival. We believe the ICB requests are justified in terms of need. We request that Congress make its best effort to sustain modest growth in these programs in this challenging budget environment.**

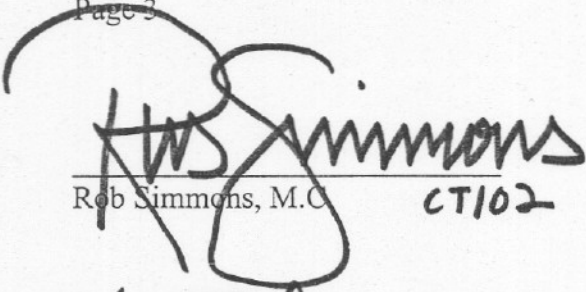
Thank you for your attention to this matter.

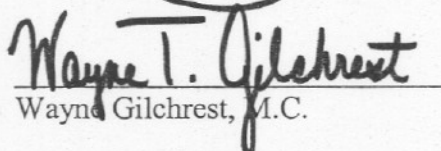
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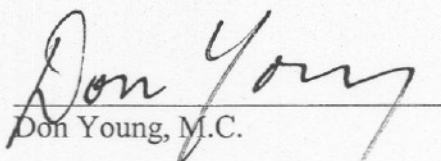
  
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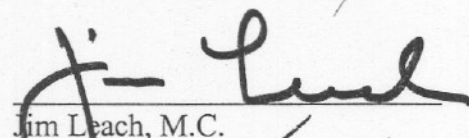
  
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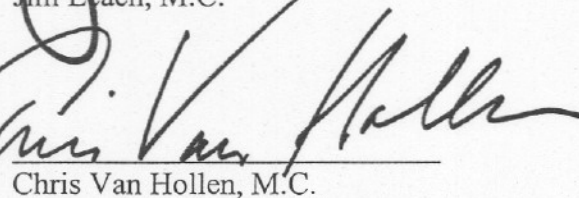
  
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Jim Saxton, M.C.

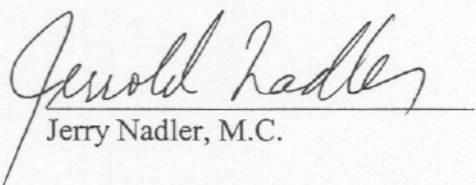
  
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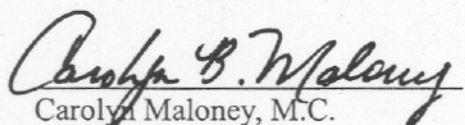
  
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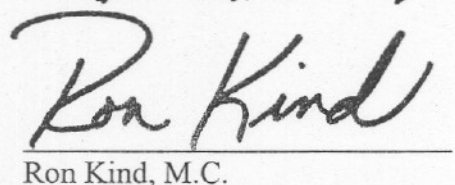
  
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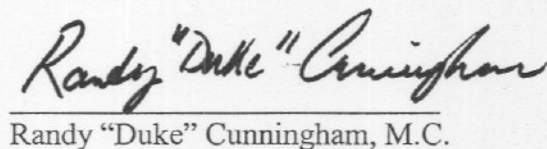
  
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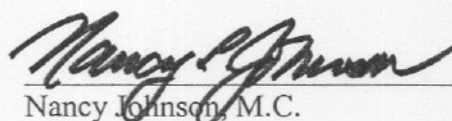
  
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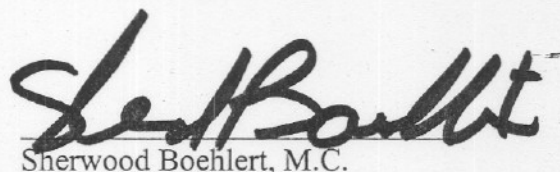
  
Carolyn Maloney, M.C.

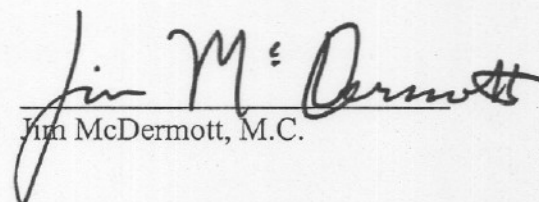
  
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Phil English, M.C.

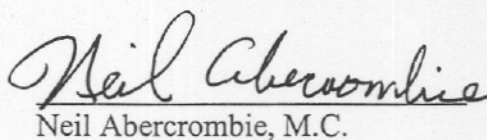
  
Randy "Duke" Cunningham, M.C.

  
Nancy Johnson, M.C.

  
Sherwood Boehlert, M.C.

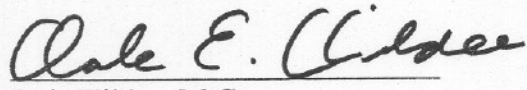
  
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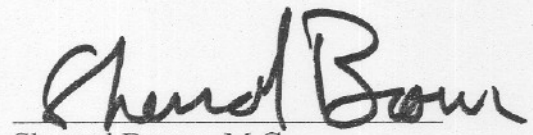
  
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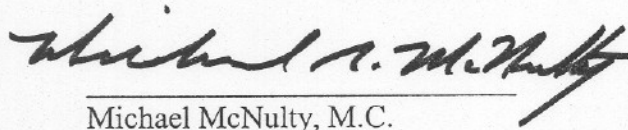
  
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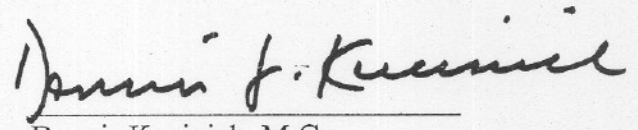
  
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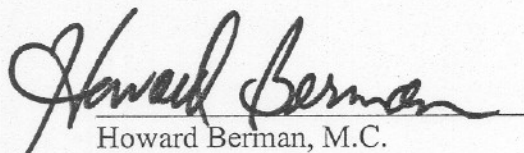


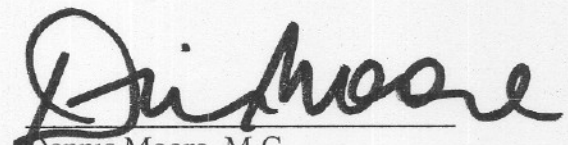
  
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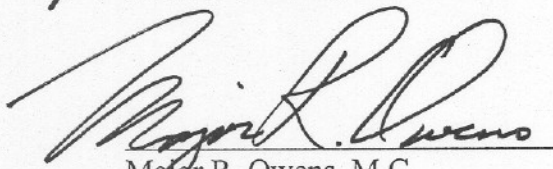
  
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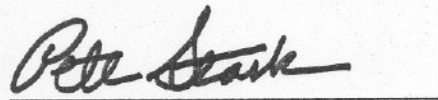
  
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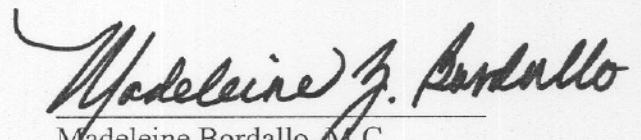
  
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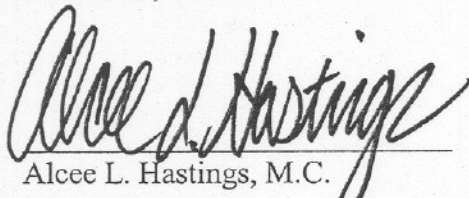
  
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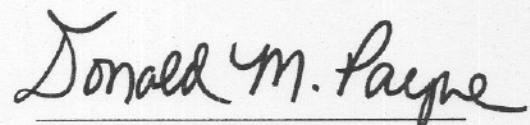
  
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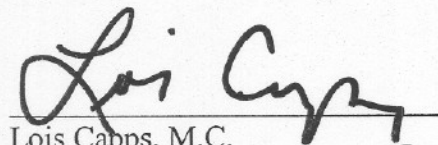
  
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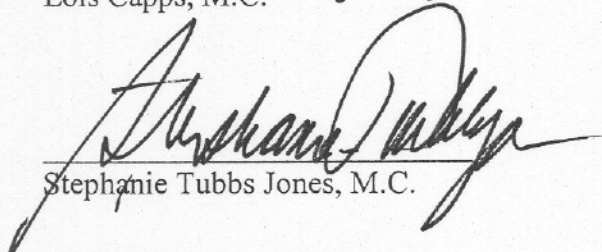
  
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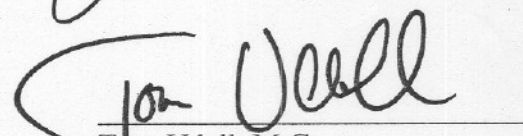
  
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Donald Payne, M.C.

  
Lois Capps, M.C.

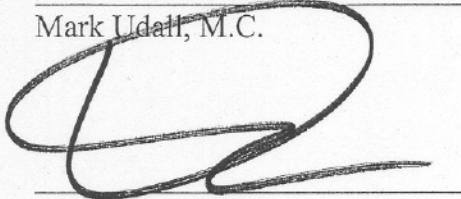
  
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Stephanie Tubbs Jones, M.C.

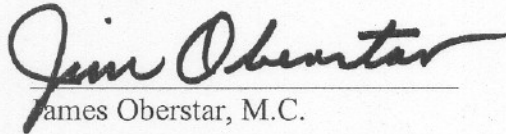
  
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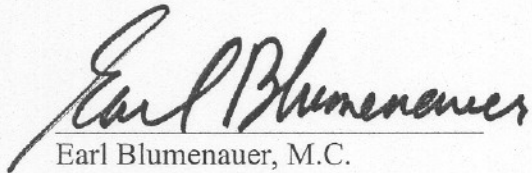
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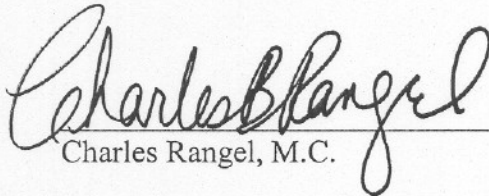
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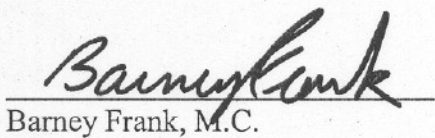
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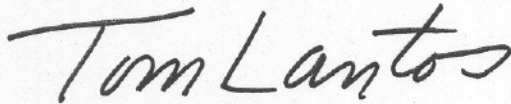
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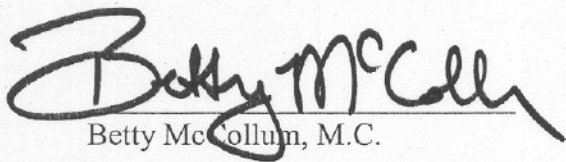
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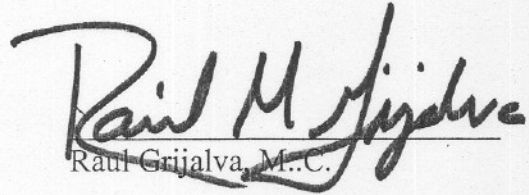
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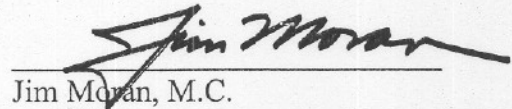
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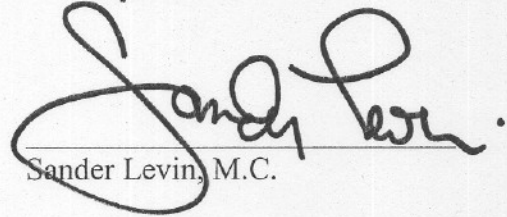
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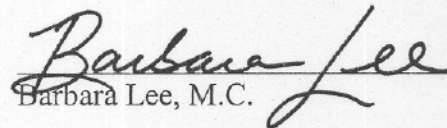
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Jim Moran, M.C.



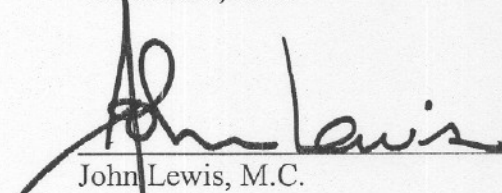
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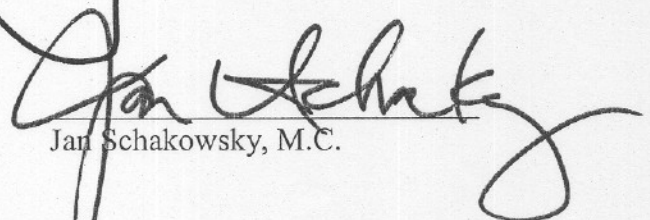
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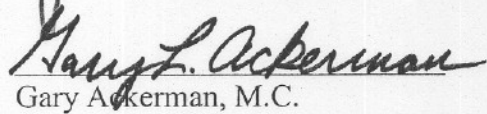
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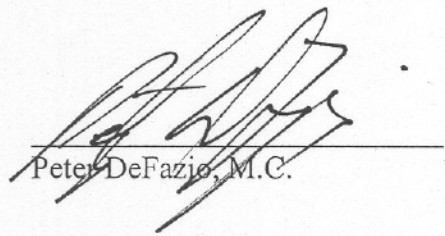
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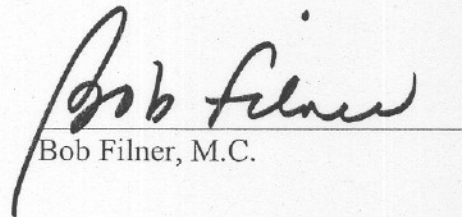
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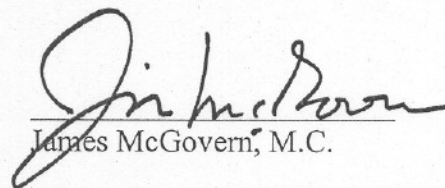
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Peter DeFazio, M.C.



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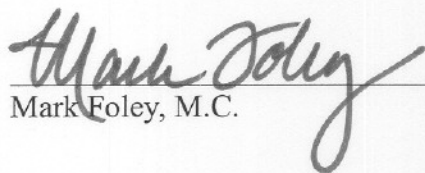


James McGovern, M.C.





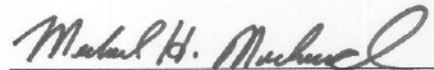
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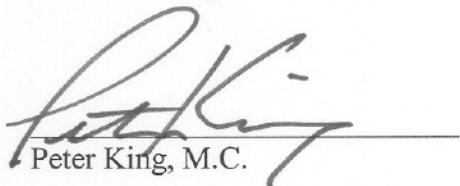
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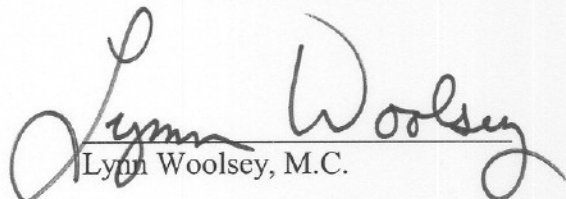
Mary Bono, M.C.



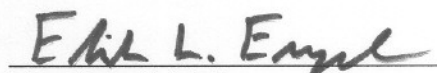
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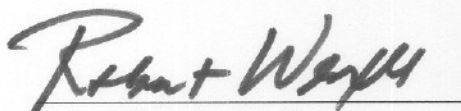
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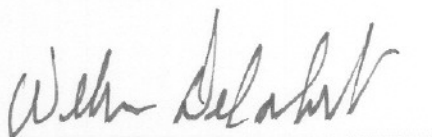
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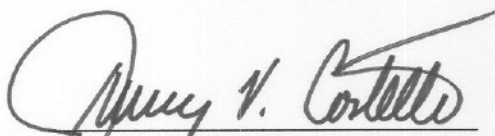
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Robert Wexler, M.C.

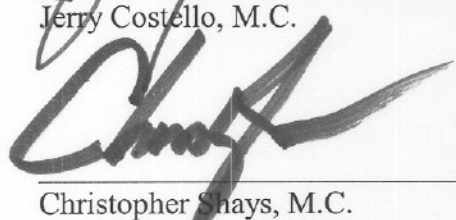


William Delahunt, M.C.

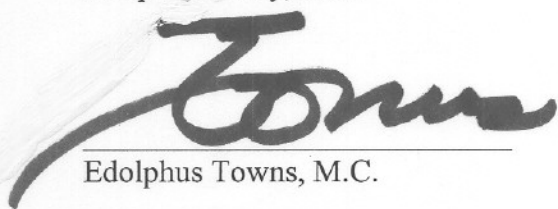


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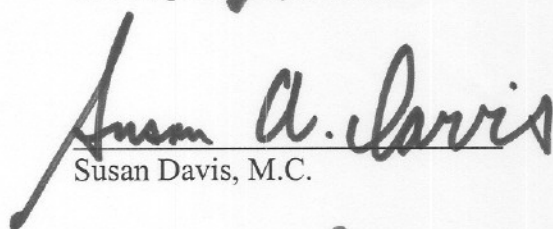
Joseph Crowley, M.C.



Christopher Shays, M.C.



Edolphus Towns, M.C.



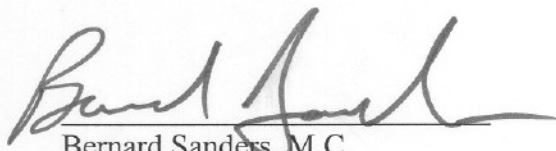
Susan Davis, M.C.




Bob Etheridge, M.C.



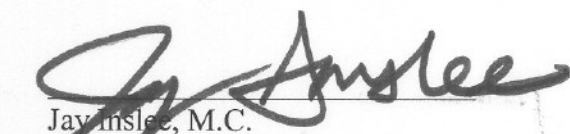
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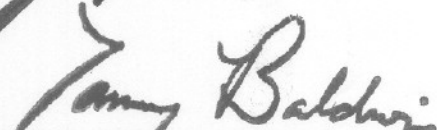


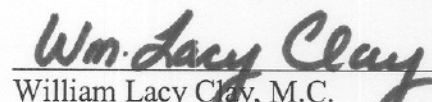
Bernard Sanders, M.C.

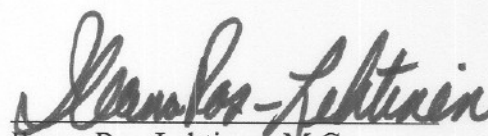


G.K. Butterfield, M.C.

  
Jay Inslee, M.C.

  
Tammy Baldwin, M.C.

  
William Lacy Clay, M.C.

  
Heana Ros-Lehtinen, M.C.